

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) In combination:

(a) a container having a storage space with a supply of an alcoholic beverage,

the container having an unopened state, an unsealed/closed state, and an opened state,

the alcoholic beverage confined to the storage space with the container in the unopened state and in the unsealed/closed state and capable of being dispensed from the storage space for consumption with the container in the opened state,

the container changeable from the unopened state into the opened state to allow dispensing of the alcoholic beverage in the storage space and thereafter changeable into the unsealed/closed state wherein: a) dispensing of the alcoholic beverage from the storage space is blocked; b) the container is detectably altered from the unopened state indicating that the alcoholic beverage in the storage space was or could have been accessed; and c) the container can be changed into the opened state to allow dispensing of alcoholic beverages from the storage space and back into the unsealed/closed state.

the container detectably changed from the unopened state into the unsealed/closed state and opened state and configured so that the container cannot be changed from the opened state precisely back into the unopened state, as a consequence of which it can be determined by inspection that the container has changed from the unopened state into the opened state; and

(b) a closure system having first and second different states,

the closure system being in its first state and operatively engaged with the container in the opened or unsealed/closed state and in the first state configured to prevent dispensing of the alcoholic beverage in the container from the storage space for consumption,

the closure system configured so that when changed from the first state into the second state, access to the container is permitted to allow the container to be changed from the unsealed/closed state into the opened state whereupon alcoholic beverage [[to]] can be dispensed from the container,

the closure system configured so that it is detectable that the closure system has been changed from the first state into the second state, and the closure system cannot be changed from the second state precisely back into the first state as a consequence of which it can be determined by inspection that the closure system was changed from the first state into the second state,

whereby accessing of the alcoholic beverage by changing the closure system from the first state into the second state and accessing the container [[in]] to allow the container to be changed from the unsealed/closed state into the opened state can be detected by inspection of the closure system, thereby permitting the closure system, remaining in the first state, to evidence that access has not been gained to the alcoholic beverage in the container that is in the ~~opened state~~ unsealed/closed state.

2. (original) The combination according to claim 1 wherein the closure system comprises a case with a receptacle into which the container is placed with the closure system operatively engaged with the container.

3. (original) The combination according to claim 2 wherein the case has a flexible shape and an opening, the container movable through the opening with the closure system in the second state, the opening blocked sufficiently with the closure system in the first state that the container cannot be moved from the receptacle through the opening.

4. (withdrawn) The combination according to claim 1 wherein the case comprises hinged case parts which are movable towards and away from each other to selectively place the closure system in the first and second states.

5. (currently amended) The combination according to claim 1 wherein the container has an opening through which the alcoholic beverage can be introduced into and dispensed from the storage space, and a cork directed into the container opening with the container in the unopened ~~state~~ and unsealed/closed states and separated from the container with the container in the opened state.

6. (withdrawn) The combination according to claim 5 wherein the container has a wall structure defining the opening and the closure system comprising at least one element that acts between the cork and the wall structure.

7. (withdrawn) The combination according to claim 6 wherein the at least one element comprises a moldable material that is molded against the cork and the wall structure with the closure system in the first state.

8. (withdrawn) The combination according to claim 7 wherein the moldable material is ruptured to change the closure system from the first state into the second state.

9. (currently amended) The combination according to claim 1 wherein the container has a wall structure defining an opening through which the alcoholic beverage can be introduced into and dispensed from the storage space for consumption and a cap that is repositionable relative to the wall structure to change the container between the opened ~~and closed~~, unopened and unsealed/closed states.

10. (withdrawn) The combination according to claim 9 wherein the closure system comprises at least one element that acts between the cap and the wall structure.

11. (withdrawn) The combination according to claim 10 wherein the at least one element comprises a moldable material that is molded against the cap and the wall structure with the closure system in the first state.

12. (withdrawn) The combination according to claim 11 wherein the moldable material is ruptured to change the closure system from the first state into the second state.

13. (original) The combination according to claim 3 wherein the case has first and second wall parts that are connected, each to the other, with the closure system in the first state.

14. (original) The combination according to claim 13 wherein the first and second wall parts are bonded to each other with the closure system in the first state.

15. (withdrawn) The combination according to claim 13 wherein the first and second wall parts are connected to each other through at least one flexible element with the closure system in the first state.

16. (withdrawn) The combination according to claim 13 wherein the first and second wall parts are connected to each other through a molded element with the closure system in the first state.

17. (withdrawn) The combination according to claim 13 wherein the first and second wall parts are snap-connected to each other with the closure system in the first state.

18. (withdrawn) The combination according to claim 13 wherein the first and second wall parts are connected to each other through a fastener with the closure system in the first state.

19. (withdrawn) The combination according to claim 18 wherein the fastener comprises joinable parts.

20. (withdrawn) The combination according to claim 1 wherein the container has an opening through which the alcoholic beverage can be introduced into and dispensed from the storage space for consumption, and the closure system in the first state blocks the opening to prevent dispensing of alcoholic beverage in the container from the storage space for consumption.

21. (withdrawn) A method of monitoring the dispensing of an alcoholic beverage from a container, said method comprising the steps of:

providing an alcoholic beverage in a storage space defined by a container having an unopened state and an opened state,

the alcoholic beverage confined to the storage space with the container in the unopened state and capable of being dispensed from the storage space for consumption with the container in the opened state;

changing the container from the unopened state into the opened state and thereby causing the container to be detectably changed in a manner that the container cannot be changed from the opened state precisely back into the unopened state as a consequence of which it can be determined by inspection that the container was changed from the unopened state into the opened state;

providing a closure system that is operatively engageable with the container and having first and second different states;

placing the closure system in operative engagement with the container and in the first state so as to prevent dispensing of the alcoholic beverage in the container from the storage space from consumption; and

changing the closure system from the first state into the second state to allow the alcoholic beverage to be dispensed from the storage space for consumption and thereby causing the closure system to be detectably changed in a manner that the closure system cannot be changed from the second state precisely back into the first state, as a consequence of which it can be determined by inspection that the closure system was changed from the first state into the second state;

whereby after changing the container from the unopened state into the opened state, the closure system can be operatively engaged with the container and placed in the first state so that thereafter any dispensing of the alcoholic beverage from the container for consumption requires changing of the closure system from the first state into the second state which can be detected by inspection of the closure system.